

Release - Immediate
Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

STOCKMEN SUBSCRIBE LARGE FUND FOR WAR ON WILD ANIMALS.

Wyoming Ranchmen Raise \$5,000 to Fight Animals Which
Destroy Stock. -- To Be Spent by U. S. Department
of Agriculture with Its Funds. -- Extermination
Work Progressing Well.

Washington, D. C. Five thousand dollars was recently subscribed by stockmen in Sweetwater and Carbon counties, Wyoming, toward a campaign to poison wild animals which prey on live stock. The fund will be spent in the range lands of the Red Desert, according to directions of representatives of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with funds of the Department.

Two extensive poisoning campaigns were conducted in Wyoming during the past fiscal year, one near Lander, known as the Hailey Project, the other near Cody, the Cody-Basin Project. Both campaigns were successful and resulted in a marked reduction during the past season in the losses of live stock from the depredations of predatory animals in these localities. The saving of lambs during the lambing season was particularly evident. Methods of preparing and distributing

poison baits have been greatly improved, by the experiments and field tests of the experts of the Biological Survey.

The bureau has obtained gratifying results in reducing live-stock losses through destruction of wild animals by its organization of hunters and trappers as well as through its poisoning campaigns. Through both agencies the wolves, coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats, and other predatory animals which annually destroy large numbers of domestic animals in Wyoming, are being steadily decreased. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1917, a total of 1,897 animals were taken in Wyoming by the trappers, including 1,437 coyotes, 98 wolves, 138 bobcats, and 2 bears. Bears are regarded as game animals and are not molested except when known to be confirmed stock killers. During the month of August, 1917, there were 9 bobcats, 127 coyotes, 2 lynx, and 5 wolves among the animals taken.